

Deputy Assistant Director, ORR

8 October 1957

Chief, Geographic Research Area

ORA Contribution to the Semi-Annual Report to the President's Board of  
Consultants on Foreign Economic and Geographic Intelligence Activities

A. Economic and Geographic Intelligence Production

1. Geographic research has continued to focus on the production of unconventional warfare feasibility studies in accordance with fully coordinated terms of reference. These area feasibility studies are a significant part of the coordinated unconventional warfare planning among agencies and will eliminate much of the duplication that formerly existed.

2. Intelligence support and production reviewing Soviet activities and estimating Soviet intentions in Antarctica were furnished to the National Security Council and the Planning Board for the formulation of the revision of U.S. Antarctic policy and to the Operations Coordinating Board and its Working Group on Antarctica in the implementation of NSC 5715/1.

3. Continued study of Soviet geodetic, gravimetric, and cartographic capabilities and support of Guided Missile operations provided the foundation for a briefing for the [REDACTED] Guided Missile Intelligence Conference.

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4. Analysis of geographic factors affecting the selection of Guided Missile ranges in the USSR, the selection and analysis of possible observation points for surveillance of the nuclear testing site at Semipalatinsk, and analysis of geographic factors affecting the capabilities of Soviet atomic and guided missile installations, were among other geographic research activities.

5. Maps of significance included several City Plans on the USSR and Satellites; four maps of the Soviet Arctic Island, Novaya Zemlya; a map of railroads in Communist China; a map of changes in the Soviet railroad system; and a number of terrain maps for the NIS.

6. There is an increased volume of excellent ground photographs being brought out of Communist China by [REDACTED] Travelers from inside this area are also making available an increased amount of pertinent information. Through the development of analyst capabilities

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to utilize aerial photography and because of the increasing availability of photo coverage, there is an apparent rise in the utilization of aerial photography as an intelligence source.

7. A study on the Petroleum Situation in Latin America highlighted the current picture in the petroleum-rich areas, with details on production and refinery capabilities.

**B. Major Intelligence Gaps**

1. The unavailability of modern, large-scale, topographic map coverage and geodetic data on the USSR, previously reported, continues to be a most serious intelligence gap. The supposedly completed Soviet 1:100,000 map series is a prime target for all U.S. collectors. There is a gradual contraction of overt opportunity for the collection of data in Near Eastern and African countries. Attaches are being restricted in movement; Army military geographic specialist teams are having areas closed to them; and commercial concerns have refused to divulge information. All of this results in the fact that much desired information could have been collected during the time relatively free movement was permitted in what have now become critical and restricted travel areas. It is apparent that a coordinated collection program, similar in intensity of effort to that of the Bloc area, is needed today for the Near East and Africa for the collection of both overt and covert intelligence.

2. A major difficulty in securing intelligence information on the Satellites continues to be, as in the past, the inability to establish a continuing and well-recognized liaison with the DD/P complex, whereby agent and defector data would be made available to us. As a result, much up-to-date information on terrain and security installations that rests in DD/P files is denied us because of a failure to recognize the value of the data in the services we perform for DD/P and because of DD/P's broad interpretation of "operational data" to which we cannot have access.

**C. Dissemination and Utilization of ORR Products**

1. The intelligence produced on Antarctica was directly utilized by the National Security Council and the Planning Board in the formulation of the revision of U.S. Antarctic policy and by the Operations Coordinating Board and its Working Group on Antarctica in the implementation of NSC 5715/1, including the planning of U.S. operations in Antarctica.

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2. Other geographic research products and maps have been utilized in operational planning, intelligence surveillance activities, and by U.S. agencies and representatives here and abroad.

3. Intelligence maps and charts distributed to a wide variety of consumers numbered 426, with the NIS continuing to be one of the most important. Internal ORR and ONE requests continued high.

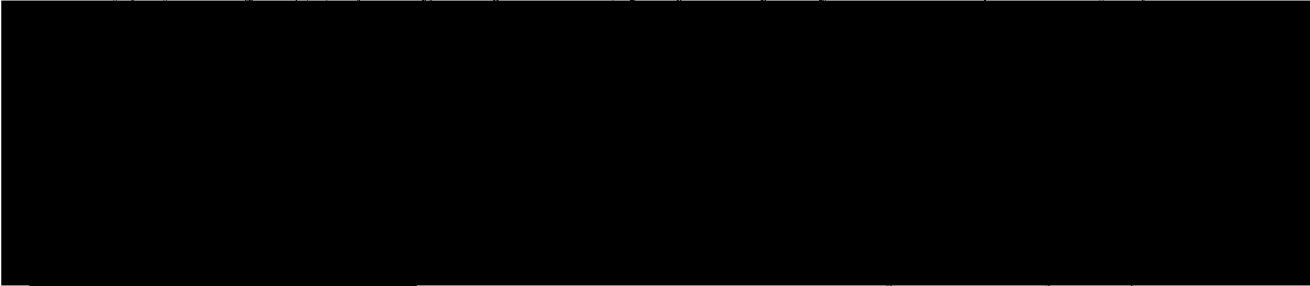
**D. Guidance to Collectors**

1. Renewed efforts are being made to aid U.S. collectors in the procurement of the 1:100,000 USSR topographic map series. The importance of this map series has been reflected again in existing CIA requirements in response to a memorandum from the Director of Foreign Intelligence, ACSI, Department of the Army, to the DCI, requesting the exertion of all possible means for the collection of the series.

**E. Coordination of Economic and Geographic Intelligence**

1. A coordinated effort with the Army Map Service enabled us to procure a number of heretofore unobtainable medium-scale maps of important areas of the USSR. These maps are now being color separated for reproduction in quantity and distribution to the intelligence community.

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This data permits a coordinated policy determination by CIA, State, ICA, and Defense in seeking to assure the desired outcome of certain projects.

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4. Significant advances were made in the coordination of unconventional warfare study characteristics and criteria, resulting in the elimination of duplicatory efforts in this field and in the establishment of an integrated unconventional warfare research program.

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